

REMARKS

I. Obviousness Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) over Wadsworth in view of Giffen.

Claim 3 was rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) over Wadsworth in view of Giffen, and further in view of Ostendarp, et al.

Claims 1 to 3 have been canceled without replacement, obviating these obviousness rejections.

II. Indefiniteness Rejection

Claims 1 to 12 were rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 to 3 have been canceled, obviating their rejection for containing an antecedent basis error. The forming tool of steps a) and b) of claim 1 were the same and thus "the" should have been used instead of "a" in step b) of claim 1.

The drawing reference numbers have been deleted from claims 4 to 12 to eliminate any confusion about claim scope.

For the foregoing reasons and because of the changes in the claims withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 to 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 to 12 were found to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Since claims 4 to 12 were amended to correct the deficiencies in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action, favorable allowance of claims 4 to 12 is respectfully solicited.

IV. Formal Drawings

Formal drawings are being prepared and will be forwarded to you with this amendment or separately. No grid will be shown on the new figs. 1 to 4, but they will be otherwise the same.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves slightly upwards at the end.

Michael J. Striker,

Attorney for the Applicants

Reg. No. 27,233